

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXTENDING WIFIA LOAN TERMS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, recently I introduced a necessary amendment to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA). This provision was included in my "WIFIA Improvement Act of 2020" (H.R. 8217) from last Congress. I thank my colleague Congressman NEWHOUSE (R-WA) for his support as the original cosponsor this year.

Our bipartisan bill would allow local communities seeking to build water infrastructure projects to secure federally guaranteed financing under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WIFIA loan program with a 55-year repayment schedule rather than the current 35-year loan term. This change would unlock low-interest WIFIA financing for projects with longer lifecycles like the off-stream Sites Reservoir Project in my Congressional district and similar water storage projects.

For fiscal year 2021, Congress made more than \$11.5 billion in federal WIFIA loans available. By making WIFIA loan terms more workable for projects with longer lifecycles, at no risk to the taxpayer, this bill will allow California and other western states to modernize water infrastructure and better meet future water supply needs.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members to cosponsor this bipartisan bill to unlock the federal financing necessary to construct the water infrastructure of the future. I plan to make this bipartisan bill a major priority in my work as a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, including in any WIFIA reauthorization. The current Congressional authorization for the WIFIA program expires at the end of fiscal year 2021.

HONORING MR. ROBERT KANE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Mr. Robert Kane.

Robert was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and currently resides in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. He is the proud father to two sons, John Regan and Sanders Burke. Along with his two daughters in law, he has been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren Anne Pierson, Waring, Kate, and Grace.

Robert graduated from Louisiana State University in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Following his graduation in 1974, he obtained his real estate license in the State of Mississippi. Robert began his career in real estate in the hopes that, one day,

he could open his own real estate business. As the owner of the Robert Kane Management Company and part-owner of Greater Gulfport Properties, Incorporated, I believe he has succeeded.

Not only is Robert an astute business owner, he is also known for his tireless public service. In fact, in 2017, the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission found it only fitting to dedicate their new 8,000 square foot administrative building in honor of his 23 years of leadership as President of the Commission.

For decades, Robert has volunteered with multiple civic, business, and social organizations. He is a lifelong member of the Hancock County Republican Executive Committee and for the past twenty years, produced one of the best barbeque fundraisers in Hancock County.

Today, we recognize Mr. Robert Kane for his outstanding service to the Republican Party, the State of Mississippi, and to Hancock County.

RECOGNIZING THE VA NORTHERN INDIANA WOMEN'S VETERAN HEALTH CLINIC

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the VA Northern Indiana Women's Veteran Health Clinic for their service to women veterans in our community.

The VA Northern Indiana Health Care System is committed to providing high-quality services in a sensitive and safe environment. In the clinic, each woman veteran is assigned a Women's Health Primary Care Provider; each provider is trained to deliver comprehensive primary care in any number of programs.

With 3,383 women veterans currently enrolled in the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System, the clinic provides maternity care programs, general health and wellness programs, baby shower preparation, sexual trauma services and more.

As a veteran myself and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in Congress, I am honored to have served in uniform and to serve the people of northeast Indiana in Congress. One of my top priorities has been, and always will be, ensuring those who served the United States receive the honor, opportunity and care they deserve.

This is a testament to the honor and sacrifice of those heroes who have served our country, and to those who serve them.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 6TH UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Global Road Safety Caucus to mark the 6th United Nations Global Road Safety Week, which begins today.

In September 2020, the United Nations passed a resolution declaring the years 2021 through 2030 a new Decade of Action for Road Safety. Additionally, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 includes a call to address the personal, medical, and financial burdens associated with road traffic deaths and injuries.

The number of deaths on the world's roads remains unacceptably high, with an estimated 1.35 million people dying each year. But this is not just an issue in other countries. The National Safety Council (NSC) says deaths from motor vehicles rose 8 percent last year in the United States, with as many as 42,060 Americans dying in vehicle crashes. Also according to the State Department, road crash deaths are the single greatest cause of death for Americans traveling abroad.

As the Congress and the Biden administration consider investing in infrastructure, we must ensure these investments promote safety practices through a safe-systems approach and improve our roads and other infrastructure in ways that protect people and families. And as Americans begin traveling domestically and internationally again as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, we should be cognizant of the many risk factors, including increased speed, that significantly increase the probability of death or injury.

By recognizing Global Road Safety Week and the 2nd Decade of Action for Road Safety, together we can make a difference in stemming the tide of the road crash epidemic in the United States and around the world. Ultimately, we should do everything in our power to protect the lives of all road users, and I hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that.

HONORING BRENT STARK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brent Stark. Brent is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brent has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

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